



Superior Court of the State of California

County of Madera

209 W. Yosemite Avenue
Phone: 559-675-7944



Madera CA 93637
Fax: 559-675-0701

Presiding Judge: Mitchell C. Rigby

Assistant Presiding Judge: D. Lynn Jones

Court Executive Officer: Bonnie Thomas

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the August 5, 2011 U.S. Postal Truck Fire

Q: What Happened?

A: On August 5, 2011 a United States Postal Service ("USPS") truck carrying mail from Fresno to the Madera and Chowchilla Post Offices caught fire. The truck and its contents were engulfed in flames. The truck was carrying mixed classes of mail, including Express Mail, Priority and Standard Parcels, as well as letters and magazines, which were almost all destroyed

Q: Was my mail to the Madera Superior Court lost?

A: Only mail sent in the several days prior to August 5, 2011 would have been on that truck. Any mail sent on or after that date would not be affected.

Q: How can I be sure the Court received my mail?

A: If you think that your mail may have been part of the August 5, 2011 shipment, contact the appropriate Court Division (Civil, Traffic, Criminal or Juvenile) at 559-675-7944 to verify if your filing or payment was received. Any questions regarding Family or Probate matters should be directed to the Civil Department.

Q: I sent a check to pay for my traffic citation (or any other matter). When can I tell if you cashed it?

A: The Court normally processes payments within one to two business days upon receipt of the payment. If you sent a check to the Court in the week before August 5 and the Court has not processed it, it may have been destroyed in the fire. Please contact the appropriate Court Division (Civil, Traffic, Criminal or Juvenile) to confirm whether the Court has received the payment or if there is some other problem that applies to your case. If we have not received the original payment, you will have to send a new payment.

Q: What if the fire delay resulted in my missing a deadline?

A: Allowances can only be made on a case by case basis. However, please be aware that all of the Judges of the Madera Superior Court are aware of the issue and will give the subject due consideration should it be a factor in your case.

Q: Where can I file a claim for lost mail?

A: The Court is not responsible for lost or damaged mail in the possession of the USPS. All such questions should be directed to your local post office or branch.